

# LETTER

To the Right HONOURABLE

Sir *Ralph Gore*, Bart.

## S P E A K E R

Of the HONOURABLE

*Transferred  
1914.*

House of Commons,



CHANCELLOR of His Majesty's  
Exchequer in IRELAND.

CONCERNING

A lately published *Proposal* for a voluntary SUBSCRIPTION to erect a TROPHY in Memory of the Deliverance of this Kingdom, by the Glorious Victory at the *BOYNE*.

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*Res tantas Bello gessisse Cornelium fateris, ut non magis de Triumpho, quam de Honore Diis Immortalibus habendo dubitari possit.*

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LETTER

To the Honorable

Sir Ralph Gurney Bart.

SIR

House of Commons

AND

CHAMBERLAIN OF THE HOUSE

OF COMMONS

IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

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# LETTER

To the Right Honourable

*Sir Ralph Gore, &c.*

SIR,

**I**T has given no manner of Surprize to any one that is in the least acquainted with your Character, to find your Name in the Front of a *Proposal* to do Honour to the Memory of our Dear and Great Deliverer, King *WILLIAM*. You began the World on the Principles of Liberty; and have carried them through your whole Conduct into the elevated Stations, to which you have been called both by your King and Country. You exerted your Zeal for the glorious Cause at a Time, when it was not only unfashionable, but dangerous to espouse it. And when you were one of the *Ruined Party*, you appeared as brave in the Defence of an expiring Constitution, as you have since shewn your self moderate towards the Persons of those who had used you very ill upon its Account.

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This is a Compliment justly due you from all true Lovers of Liberty, and their Country. But the *Protestants* of *Ireland*, would be wanting in Justice to themselves, if they did not assert their own Claim to the like Acknowledgments. They early embarked in the *Revolution*; they ventured their All for it; and many of them actually lost their All. Nor were they so ready as some of their Neighbours, to forget their Deliverance, and murmur against their Deliverer. It proved a Work of Time, and the Effect of great Industry, and of many artful Infusions, before a very inconsiderable Number of them could be so far deluded as to take up a Denomination inconsistent with their former Principles and Practices, and which had been as justly odious to them as the profligate Band of *Out-laws*, from whom it was derived. The Enemies of their Country, and of the Rights of Men, found it a very difficult Task to debauch a People, who so well knew the Value of Liberty, by having so deeply smarted under Tyranny. The only remarkable Attempt made to corrupt them, was vain to conceal it self under the Mask of Religion, and to pretend Piety, instead of Ingratitude; with what Success the Author of it can best tell, who never obtained any thing else by it, save the Honour of being tack'd, for some Years to the Fag-end of the *Toast*, which he had endeavoured to abolish, and which the *Protestants* of *Ireland* had constantly kept up in Memory of their Great Deliverer.

Such having always hitherto been the Disposition of the main Body of the *Protestants* of this Kingdom, it is not to be doubted, but all of them that are able, will chearfully fall in with a Proposal more effectually to perpetuate the Memory of King *William*, and their own Sense of the Obligations which they owe to him. The *Equestrian* Statue of that Prince erected by the City of *Dublin* on *College-Green*, is a very laudable Instance of their Zeal, and highly worthy the  
Imita-



Imitation of all their Fellow-Subjects. But though we are confident, we have not any of those *profane Miscreants* among us, audacious enough to call any Monument in Honour of our Great Deliverer, by the Name of a *Nuisance*, yet we are but too sensible of there being some not quite so well-affected to such a Design, as they ought to be. To deduce therefore the Arguments for such Publick Instances of National Gratitude, and to obviate whatever Objections either Ignorance, or Prejudice may form against them, is the principal Cause of giving you, and the Publick the present Trouble.

If we look into Antiquity, we shall find the Custom of perpetuating the Memory of Events by Pillars, Trophies, Statues, and Triumphal Arches, to have begun very early. *Josephus* traces it almost as far back as the Deluge; if we may give Credit to what he relates concerning *Seth's* Pillars. And we are sure, that *Jacob* the Patriarch erected such Monuments on divers Occasions. Among the *Egyptians* there were many Pillars; and most of their Pyramids seem to have been erected for the same Purpose; at least we can hardly conceive any other Use for these wonderful Structures, unless to be the Repositories and Monuments of the Illustrious Dead. In the *Greek* Historians we read of the famous Pillar raised on the Plains of *Marathon*, in Memory of the great Victory there obtained by their Countrymen over the *Persians*. How much the *Romans* gave into the same Custom, it is needless to mention. Every Page of their History is full of it. The principal Ornaments of their City owed their Original to it. Every great Action added to the Beauty of the City, as well as to the Glory of the Commonwealth. Even the most barbarous Nations have not been wanting to pay this generous Homage to superior Virtue. *Cæsar*, and *Tacitus* give us Instances of it among the antient *Gauls* and *Germans*. Our own *Gothic* Ancestors raised Monuments,  
and

and composed Songs in Honour of their Captains and Heroes; and old *Runic* Inscriptions to the same Purpose have been found in the most remote Parts of *Lapland*. And here in *Ireland* the many cavernous Mounts dispersed through all Parts of the Kingdom seem to have been formed with the like View; since most of them are either found near Places where there are visible Remains of old Encampments, or in such as are known in History to have been the Scene of great and memorable Battles.

A Custom thus embraced in all Ages, and by all Nations, as well the rude and the barbarous, as the polite and the civilized, cannot well be supposed to have kept its Standing so long without some good Foundation in Reason. The *Common Sense* of Mankind is by many esteemed the truest Standard and Criterion of Virtue. Rules of Policy likewise ought to be brought, and are always best tried when brought to the Test of Experience. The Experience of many succeeding Ages has proved this Method to be one of the most powerful to cultivate Virtue, and publick Spirit. Example is generally of greater Efficacy than Precept. The great Spur to Virtue, notwithstanding its natural Comeliness and Beauty, is the Rewards attending it. Of these Rewards generous Minds are most apt to take Fire with such as affect their Reputation with their Contemporaries, and their Renown amongst Posterity. Nothing is more likely to inspire Men with the Love of their Country, than when they see their Country studious to reward Merit, and careful to preserve the Memory of great and Praise-worthy Actions. This raises a noble and manly Emulation amongst all the Members of a Society, and makes every Man solicitous about his Reputation, and restless till he has performed something that may deserve the Approbation and Applauses of his Fellow-Citizens. Thus Virtue becomes prolific; and every new Trophy erected in a State inspires Passions,  
that

that may, in time, administer Occasion to erect many others.

Public Edifices, and Ornaments of all kinds, have a mechanic Effect on the Minds of most Men. They serve as Marks to call up the dear Idea of a Country, and afford sensible Images to imprint it more strongly in our Remembrance. Every Man imagines he has a kind of Property in Things of this Sort; because he is every Moment at Liberty to enjoy all the Satisfaction they are capable of affording. Beautiful or magnificent Objects cannot be appropriated without lessening the Pleasure of them in proportion to the Limits to which their Enjoyment is confined. On all these Accounts it seems reasonable, that this kind of Goods ought to be principally in the Possession of the Public, except where they are of such a Nature as will not bear the general View without being in Danger of perishing. The Care then of a State should be to make this prevailing Inclination turn to the public Emolument, by erecting great and noble Works, that may last for Ages, and prove an Entertainment to Posterity, as well as to themselves. Works of mere Fancy, such as elegant Gardens, and beautiful Paintings, may, and ought to be indulged to Princes, and Men of opulent Fortunes, as a very proper Method of distributing their Wealth amongst the Community, and of encouraging Men of Genius and Industry. But it were still a greater Happiness to Mankind, if their general Taste this Way were more easily to be gratified, and if the Streams of private Expence in Things elegant and curious, could be turned to augment the public Magnificence, in Works of greater Use and Durableness.

These Reasons, perhaps, may not so well relish with some People, who will be ready to alledge, that so poor a Country as ours ought not to enter upon any costly and expensive Undertakings, merely to gratify a Taste of Elegance and Magnificence. This were well, if the Persons from whom we are to expect this  
Objection,

Objection, managed their own Affairs so frugally as to give a good Example to the Public. If the Gentlemen who were likely to be affected by a Bill lately depending in Parliament, to restrain a very foolish and ridiculous Article of Expence in Apparel, would devote only their Savings for the first Year in which such an Act were to take Place, to the erecting of some noble public Work, it would do a much greater Honour to their Country, than appearing in a glittering Equipage at the Castle on a Birth-Night, or in the Side-Box at the Play-house: And I dare be bold to say, that this Reduction of private Expence would produce a Sum large enough to raise some durable Monument of national Virtue and Gratitude.

In some other Countries Expences of this Sort are so far from being thought a Means of impoverishing a People, that they are rather found to administer to the Riches of the Public. *Italy* and *France* are illustrious Proofs of the Truth of this Assertion. No Countries in the Universe are more visited by Strangers, who spend great Sums of Money in them, merely to gratify their Curiosity in seeing the many magnificent Works, with which those Countries abound, most of which have been erected to perpetuate the Memory of public and great Events. The Inhabitants of modern *Rome* owe their Support much more to the Monuments of antient Virtue there extant, than they do to all the expensive Vices of that great Nest of rich and luxurious Priests that have fixed their Residence amongst them. And I have often heard it confidently asserted by several ingenious Gentlemen, that all the vast Treasure laid out in Building the magnificent Palace of *Versailles* has been more than made up to the People of *France* by the mighty Concourse of Strangers, whom the Fame of it has, from time to time, drawn into the Country. But whatever there may be in this, certain it is, that all polite Countries will constantly have the greatest Resort of Foreigners to them; and  
no



no one Thing gives a greater Idea of the Politeness of a People, than the Grandeur and Sumptuousness of their public Buildings, especially of such as are thus calculated to promote public Virtue, by preserving the Memory of great and heroic Atchievements.

These Considerations, laid together are more than enough to bespeak the Favour of the Public to such Designs in general. Nor is there one of these Arguments, but holds strongly in the particular Case now before us. No Nation ever owed greater Obligations to a Prince, than *Ireland* does to King *WILLIAM*. He delivered us not from meer Apprehensions, or remote Dangers, but from a vile Slavery, under which we had been groaning for many Years. The Designs of our Enemies were not confined to the Destruction of our Religion, our Laws, and our Liberties; but our Estates were marked out for a Prey, and our Persons for a Sacrifice. All the Protestants in the Kingdom, Nobility, Gentry, and Commonalty, who had any Thing to lose, were, without Distinction of Age, or Sex, to the Number of some Thousands, condemned unheard by King *James's* famous *Act of Attainder*. An Act, which never had been paralleled in History unless by the *Roman* Proscriptions under *Sylla* the Dictator, and the second *Triumvirate*. And in one Respect those ancient Tyrants acted with greater Shews of Justice and Tenderneſs, than ours. For the Names of the proscribed *Romans* were posted up in the most public Places of the City, that they might seemingly be forewarned of their Dangers; but in our *Irish* Proscription even this Mockery of Justice was laid aside, and the *Act* kept so secret, that, without paying a considerable Sum, no Man could obtain the Favour of knowing whether he was numbered among the Victims. Proceedings so full of Horror and Barbarity obliged as many of the Protestants as could find Means for their Escape, to abandon their Country. Those that remained were either obliged to undergo the most unmerciful Treatment

Treatment both in their Bodies and Estates ; or else to betake themselves to two poor defenceless Places in the Northern Parts of the Kingdom, where mere Despair prompted them to suffer the greatest Calamities that human Nature is capable of suffering. The brave Defenders of *Londonderry* held it out to such Extremities, as, perhaps, no People ever were reduced to either before or since ; unless we may except the Inhabitants of *Jerusalem*, when besieged by *Titus Vespasian*, or more lately the miserable People of *Ispahan*, when they became the Prey of *Mir Maghmud*, and his vagabond *Aghvans*.

Such was the deplorable State of the Protestants in *Ireland*, when the Great King *WILLIAM* first sent them Relief. But this not proving sufficient, he came over the next Year in Person ; a Favour which had not been done us by any of our Kings for some Ages. For we are not to reckon the abdicated Monarch's Visit a Favour, who came over to enslave us to *France*, and *Rome*, and acted only the Part of a *Vice-roy* during his Residence amongst us. Our Deliverer made no Delay in the glorious Enterprize he had undertaken. In a few Weeks after his Arrival was fought the ever-memorable Battle of the *Boyne* ; an Action in all its Circumstances, one of the bravest and most daring that we read of in History. This great Event proved a Day of general Goal-Delivery to one half of the Kingdom. The Inhabitants of the Capital City in particular felt the immediate Effects of it, being now relieved from a long and grievous Confinement in their own Churches, which were converted to this pious Use, when the common Prisons could receive no more of them. The unhappy Prince, who had brought all these Calamities upon his Subjects, was obliged to become once more a Fugitive, and to remove the chief Obstacle that lay in the Way of our Deliverance, which notwithstanding all the Opposition given to it by the most powerful Monarch then in *Europe*, was no less gloriously

gloriously than happily compleated in the Course of another Campaign. Ever since which joyful Period the Inhabitants of this Kingdom have enjoyed a longer Term of legal and gentle Government, of Peace, Tranquility, and all kinds of public Happiness, than ever before fell to their Share, since they have been mentioned in History as a People.

In the Name of Goodness then, and in the Name of all that ever was called Virtue, or public Spirit, can any one amongst us be so base to grudge a very small Expence, all to be laid out within our selves, in order to express our grateful Sentiments of so wonderful a Deliverance, and of so many Blessings as we enjoy in consequence of it? The Reverend *Dean*, and *Chapter* of *St. Patrick's* have very lately given us a noble Instance of Generosity, in erecting a Monument over the Remains of the brave Duke of *Schomberg*, who fell in the Battle of the *Boyne*. And ought we not to contend in Virtue with so venerable a Body, by paying proportionable Honours to the great Man, who was at the Head of the same glorious Enterprize, and came off victorious in it? Gratitude is so natural and so obvious a Duty, that, in the Height of their Zeal for it, some Men have been ready to propose public Honours for Services of infinitely less Importance, than such great and heroic Atchievements as are now under our Consideration. An ingenious weekly Writer amongst our selves was pleased not long since to propose erecting a Statue of our celebrated *Drapier*, on account of his Assistance in putting an End to a famous Project for overstocking the Kingdom with Copper Farthings. No Man can have a juster Sense of the *Drapier's* Merits than I have, yet I am confident, the worthy Gentleman himself would blush to see his own Statue on such an Occasion, while we had no other Memorial of the Great King *WILLIAM* amongst us, besides the Statue on *College-Green*. For though Popery and Slavery were the most harmless and innocent Things, yet

yet King *James's* Brass Money, from which we were delivered by the Revolution, was an Evil of an hundred Times greater Consequence, than that which provoked the *Splendida Bilis* of the honest *Drapeir*.

I can think of only one other Objection, which can possibly be made to a *Proposal* of this Nature. It will be said, that such Memorials of Publick Transactions, have a Tendency to perpetuate Party Disputes, and Animosities amongst a People that are but too much divided already. Give me Leave to say, Sir, t'at this, instead of being an Objection against it, is one of the strongest Arguments, not only for the Thing it self, but for having it done in the most Grand and August Manner that can be devised, even by the *Ingenious Architect*, who, as we are told, is to have the chief Direction in this Matter. For in an Affair of this Kind the only Parties that can be, are the Friends, or the Enemies of our present happy Constitution. If there are any of the latter Sort among us, who have hitherto had Art enough to conceal themselves, this is an excellent Opportunity of making them known; and it would be of Use that their Country should know them. Let such keep as religiously as they please Times set apart to commemorate the Villanies of our Forefathers, and the fatal Consequences of those Villanies, though almost a Century has elapsed since the Commission of them: But let them not murmur against their better-disposed Fellow-subjects, for paying a Civil Homage to the most exalted Publick Virtue. While no Body envies them the Pleasure of exerting their utmost Noise once a Year against the Crimes of Men, who never did the present Age any Manner of Hurt, it is but reasonable, that we should indulge our selves in the Satisfaction of a few silent Monitors to remind us of a mighty Deliverance, the Benefits of which we all at present enjoy, and hope to transmit to our Posterity.

I hum-



I humbly beg Pardon, Sir, if, while I am upon this Subject, I presume to mention a Difficulty, with which your *Proposal*, as it now stands, will probably be attended. As herein I speak not my own Sense only, but that of a great Number of worthy Persons, who either are, or intend to be Contributors to this generous Work, I shall hope to be the more readily forgiven. It is proposed, that the Statue of King *WILLIAM*, or whatever other Trophy the Subscribers shall agree upon, be erected, on one of the Banks of the *BOYNE*, and on the very Spot where the first Attack was made on that glorious Occasion. I own, the Design is perfectly in Taste; and the celebrated Pillars erected on the Plains of *Marathon* and *Blenheim* seem sufficient to prevent all manner of Objection. But there are some Circumstances in the present Case, that render it a good deal different from what it is in other Nations. We live in a Country, where the vanquished Enemies continue still to be a very numerous Body of People. Neither their own Inclinations, nor the Influence they are under can be supposed such as to render any Object delightful to them, which is to put them in mind of their own Disgrace. Few Men now-a-days possess the good Sense, and the Generosity of *Cæsar*, who would not permit the Images of his Competitor to be overthrown; and far less are we to expect such delicate Sentiments to harbour in the Breasts of a People, who have so deeply imbibed the Principles of Bigotry, and Superstition. Any such Trophy therefore as is now proposed, will run a very great Risque of being defaced at least, if not destroyed, while it stands in an open Country, and is left exposed to whatever Insults may be offered it from rude and barbarous Hands. And to place a Guard upon a Monument of this Sort, would seem to be a Piece of very great Impropriety and Indecorum.

Besides,

Besides, as one great Use of magnificent Works is to adorn a Country, and make it appear beautiful in the Eyes of Strangers who may resort to it, Reason seems to point out Capital Cities, which always have the greatest Resort of Strangers, as the proper Places in which such Ornaments should be displayed. Is it not intended by those Persons who erect Trophies, and Publick Monuments in Memory of great Events, that they should be a Means of diffusing a sense of Gratitude and Publick Virtue through a whole People? Whether then is this End most likely to be promoted by fixing them in obscure and remote Places, where they will be visited by none but the Curious, and the Wealthy, or in a capital City, where every Man in the Nation, the labouring Poor only excepted, is sure to be found in some one Period of Life, either on the Score of Business, or Pleasure? It was the Policy of Antient *Rome* to display her greatest Glories within her own Walls; by which Means she kept all the distant Members of her extended Empire in a close Union and Dependance on Herself, and became the Head of the World, and the common Resort of all Nations. The City of *Dublin* is in Possession of a very noble Square, one of the largest and finest perhaps in *Europe*. If the worthy Contributors to the proposed Trophy in Memory of the Battle of the *BOYNE*, would agree to fix it in the Centre of this Square, it would prove a much greater Ornament, not to the City only, but to the Kingdom itself, than either at *Drogheda*, or in an open and uninhabited Field. And surely the Metropolis of our Country, filled as it is with so many People, of all Ranks and Conditions, and from all Parts of the Kingdom, is much more concerned in the Battle of the *BOYNE*, and its Consequences, than either the little Town of *Drogheda*, or a Place that has no Inhabitants on it at all.

But

But I have done ; lest I should seem to prescribe to Persons, for whose Sentiments I ought to have the utmost Veneration. Nothing that is said in this Letter was ever intended to determine the Fate of the SUBSCRIPTION now going on for this Purpose ; because I am sure, it is in such Hands as can enforce it by much more powerful Motives than any I can offer ; and likewise because I am no less sure, that the Thing it self needs not to be enforced with any Arguments in this Country, unless it be among such as are so well known, that no body will think it worth while to apply to them. My only Design has been to lay hold on so proper an Occasion to animate and fortify my Countrymen in the Love of Liberty and Virtue, and to put in Exercise that Gratitude to their Great Deliverer, which I know to be habitual to them. If I shall gain this End in any Degree, I shall have gained the End of my Ambition, and shall be vain enough to imagine my self not altogether unworthy of the Title I am so fond to bear,

of SIR,

*Your most Faithful,*

*and most Obedient*

*Humble Servant,*

PHILOSTELUS.

But I have done; I should have done more  
 to Persuade, for whose Sentiments I am bound  
 to maintain. Nothing that I have said  
 yet was ever intended to encourage the  
 SUBVERSIVE now going on for the purpose  
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